Briant Decker

TOWNSHEND, Vt. — Dr. Briant LeRay Decker, 89, died May 27, 1991, at his home, after a brief illness.

He was born Feb. 8, 1902, in Magrath, Alberta, Canada, to LeRay and Amelia Decker. He married Anna Marie Eggertson, in 1925.

His parents were pioneers to the Magrath area. He worked as a cowboy, sheep herder, and newspaper reporter. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1924 and also concurrently taught botany there for two years. He and his wife then moved to Boston, Mass.

He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1930 as a general practitioner in internal medicine. His internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital led to a 30-year association on the medical staff, until his retirement as associate physician in 1962. He held teaching fellowships at the Boston Dispensary and Tufts Medical School.

He opened his private practice in Boston in 1937, served on the teaching staff of Harvard Medical School and was staff physician to the Harvard University Health Services. When he retired from private practice in 1961, he became a full-time physician for the Harvard University Health Services, retiring there in 1974. In 1975 he became a board diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In retirement, he and his wife moved to Townshend, Vt., where he served on the West River Valley Health Council, and the Townshend School Board.

He was consulting physician in cardiology at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend. He was a board member of the Southern Vermont Conservation Society and the Windham County Historical Society.

He was an active and financial supporter of many local, state and national conservation efforts.

He is survived by his wife; three children, Lynne Marie DeJong-Decker, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Julie Anne Goetze, Belmont, Mass.; Karl Decker, Monroe, Conn.; seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; one sister, Dorothy Harmer, Provo.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of White Funeral Home, Townshend, Vt.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the West River Valley Health Council, or Grace Cottage Hospital, each of Townshend, Vt., 05353.